

**REMARKS**

Claims 17-23, 32-40 and 42-65 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17-22, 32, 34-37 and 39-40 are amended, and claims 42-65 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Prompt examination and swift allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted December 1, 2005. The substance of the interview, including any agreements reached, is reflected in the above amendments and the following remarks.

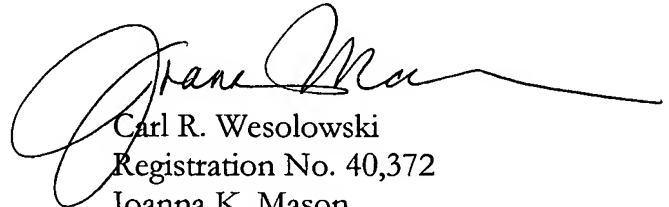
During the personal interview, Applicants' representative set forth that none of the applied prior art references discloses or suggests the use of a core of expansible material surrounded by an envelope of strength giving fibers, let alone an envelope of strength giving fibers which expands as the core of expansible material expands to fill a mould. Further, none of the applied prior art references disclose or suggest the use of a braided carbon fiber material in which a braid angle may be adjusted so as to adjust a cross section of the braided carbon fiber material to conform to a cross section of the mould as the core of expansible material expands. The Examiner agreed that none of the applied prior art references discloses or suggests such features, and that an update search would be conducted upon the filing a Request for Continued Examination and formal Reply setting forth further amendments to the claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**Date: December 13, 2005**

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